Subsidy in Haj Pilgrim

5346. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims carried by Air India this year and last year from India;

(b) whether the Haj passengers are given subsidy on their travel ticket;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would like to subsidise the Air Travel Tickets for the pilgrimage of odier religious groups especially non- muslims;

(e) if so, the details of the plan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) During Haj 1999 and Haj 2000 movement Air India transported 62103 and 71924 pilgrims respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The subsidy amount for the years 1999 and 2000 works out to Rs. 97.61 crores and Rs. 137.10 crores provisionally.

(d), (e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal to subsidise Air Travel for any other pilgrims Groups.

Operation of Escalators at IGI Airport, Delhi

5347. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the escalator at the Indira Gandhi International Airport is still not functioning after the recent accident;

(b) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism have brought to the notice of the Ministry that the passengers especially old people, ladies and children are facing lots of inconvenience due to non-operation of the escalator;

(c) if so, when Government will bring the escalator in operation at IGI Airport in order to avoid inconvenience to the passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?